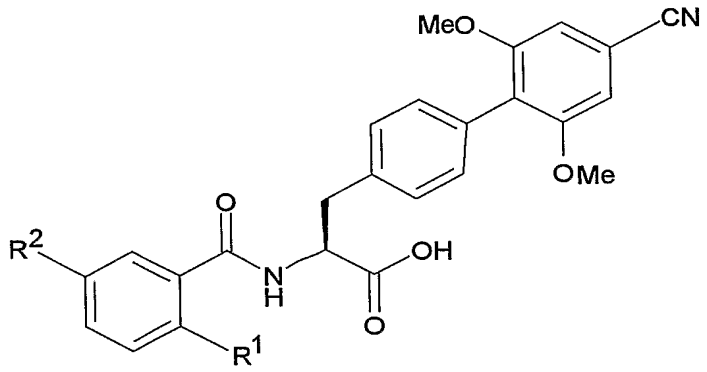
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof :



(I)

in which:

R^1 is bromo; and

R^2 is halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkoxy.

2. The compound according to claim 1 in which R^2 is halogen or C_{1-6}alkoxy.

3. The compound according to claim 2 in which R^2 is fluoro, methoxy or ethoxy.

4. The compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of

(*S*)-2-{[1-(2-Bromo-5-methylphenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-(4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl-4-yl)propionic acid);

(*S*)-2-{[(2-Bromo-5-chlorophenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-[4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxy)biphenyl-4-yl]propionic acid;

(*S*)-2-{[(2,5-Dibromophenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-[4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxy)biphenyl-4-yl]propionic acid;

(*S*)-2-{[(5-(*iso*-Propoxy)-2-bromophenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-[4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxy)biphenyl-4-yl]propionic acid

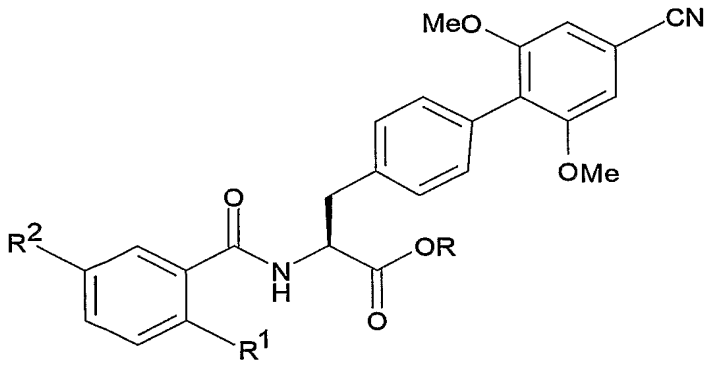
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

5. (S)-2-{[1-(2-Bromo-5-ethoxyphenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-(4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl-4-yl)propionic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

6. (*S*)-2-{[1-(2-Bromo-5-fluorophenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-(4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl-4-yl)propionic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

7. (*S*)-2-{[1-(2-Bromo-5-methoxyphenyl)methanoyl]amino}-3-(4'-cyano-2',6'-dimethoxybiphenyl-4-yl)propionic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

8. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) which comprises hydrolyzing of a carboxylic acid ester derivative of formula (II):



(II)

in which R^1 and R^2 are as defined in formula (I) and R is a group capable of forming a carboxylic acid ester and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 for use in therapy.

10. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 together with another therapeutically active agent.

12. A use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of α_4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial.

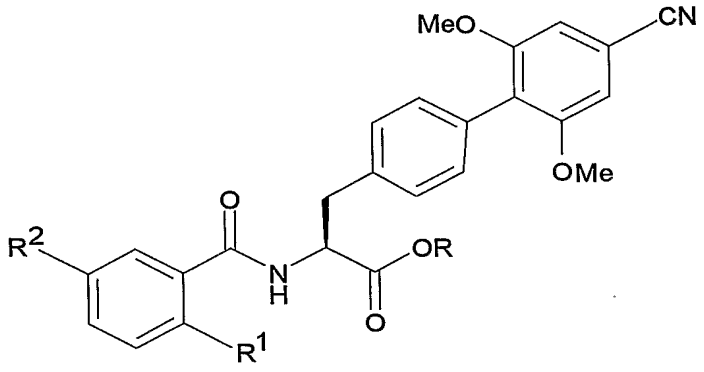
13. A method for the treatment or prevention of conditions in which an inhibitor of α_4 integrin mediated cell adhesion is beneficial which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a safe and effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis (RA); asthma; allergic conditions such as rhinitis; adult respiratory distress syndrome; AIDS-dementia; Alzheimer's disease; cardiovascular diseases; thrombosis or harmful platelet aggregation; reocclusion following thrombolysis; reperfusion injury; skin inflammatory diseases such as psoriasis, eczema, contact dermatitis and atopic dermatitis; diabetes (e.g., insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, autoimmune diabetes); multiple sclerosis; systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE); inflammatory bowel disease such as ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease (regional enteritis) and pouchitis (for example, resulting after proctocolectomy and ileoanal anastomosis); diseases associated with leukocyte infiltration to the gastrointestinal tract such as Celiac disease, nontropical Sprue, enteropathy associated with seronegative arthropathies, lymphocytic or collagenous colitis, and eosinophilic gastroenteritis; diseases associated with leukocyte infiltration to other epithelial lined tissues, such as skin, urinary tract, respiratory airway, and joint synovium; pancreatitis; mastitis (mammary gland); hepatitis; cholecystitis; cholangitis or pericholangitis (bile duct and surrounding tissue of the liver); bronchitis; sinusitis; inflammatory diseases of the lung which result in interstitial fibrosis, such as hypersensitivity pneumonitis; collagen disease (in SLE and RA); sarcoidosis; osteoporosis; osteoarthritis; atherosclerosis; neoplastic diseases including metastasis of neoplastic or cancerous growth; wound (wound healing enhancement); certain eye diseases such as retinal detachment, allergic conjunctivitis and autoimmune uveitis; Sjogren's syndrome; rejection (chronic and acute) after organ transplantation; host vs. graft or graft vs. host diseases; intimal hyperplasia; arteriosclerosis (including graft arteriosclerosis after transplantation); reinfarction or restenosis after surgery such as

percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) and percutaneous transluminal artery recanalization; nephritis; tumor angiogenesis; malignant tumor; multiple myeloma and myeloma-induced bone resorption; sepsis; and central nervous system injury such as stroke, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and Meniere's disease.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said condition is inflammatory bowel disease or multiple sclerosis.

16. A compound of formula (II):

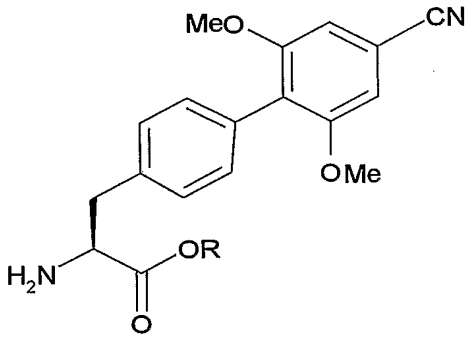


(II)

in which R^1 and R^2 are as defined in formula (I) and R is a group capable of forming a carboxylic acid ester.

17. A compound according to claim 16 in which R^2 is C_{1-6}alkoxy or fluoro.

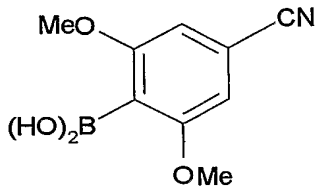
18. A compound of formula (III) or an acid addition salt thereof:



(III)

in which R is a group capable of forming a carboxylic acid ester.

19. A compound of formula (VI):



(VI)